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UNCLAS ISTANBUL 000691

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SE, EUR/PPD, EUR/EX, OBO/REPM
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E.O 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SABAH ARTICLE: "SARIYER, THE MOST
DIPLOMATIC QUARTER"

1. SUMMARY: THE U.S. CONSULATE IS SETTING THE TREND IN ISTANBUL. NATIONAL DAILY "SABAH" REPORTS THAT SEVEN CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE SETTING UP THEIR JOINT CONSULATE NEARBY. BELOW IS A TRANSLATION OF THE APRIL 29 ARTICLE. END SUMMARY.

2. "A DIPLOMATIC CENTER IS DEVELOPING IN SARIYER, WHERE THE U.S. CONSULATE MOVED DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS. AS A RESULT OF A PUSH BY THE SARIYER MUNICIPALITY, THE CONSULATES OF THE `TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS,' BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, AZERBAIJAN, TURKMENISTAN, UZBEKISTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, AND KAZAKHSTAN WILL MOVE TO SARIYER INTO A LARGE COMPLEX.

3. "THIS PROJECT IS NOT LIMITED TO CONSULATES ONLY. IT WILL BE PART OF A LARGER COMPLEX THAT INCLUDES A HOSPITAL, FAIR AND CONGRESS CENTER, TECHNOPARK AND HOTEL. ALL DRAWINGS OF THE DETAILS OF THE PROJECT, WHICH AIMS TO CHANGE SARIYER'S APPEARANCE, HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

4. "A DOSSIER WITH THE PLANS FOR THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IT IS NOW BEING REVIEWED AND THE PROJECT - WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE ATTRACTED INTEREST IN ANKARA -- WILL START AS SOON AS IT IS APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY.

5. "SARIYER MAYOR YUSUF TULUN SAID THAT THE CONSULATES OF TURKIC REPUBLICS IN ISTANBUL ARE LOCATED IN INCONVENIENT AND DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS. HE CONTINUED, `CONSULS OF TURKIC REPUBLICS SUPPORT THIS PROJECT AS WELL. WE WANT SARIYER TO BE A DIPLOMATIC QUARTER. WE ALREADY HAVE THE CONSULATES OF THE UNITED STATES, SPAIN, AUSTRIA, JAPAN AND CHINA WITHIN OUR (MUNICIPAL) BORDERS. WE HAVE SUBMITTED THE PROJECT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S UNDERSECRETARIAT. WE WILL BE ABLE TO ALLOCATE LAND. WE WANT SARIYER TO BE A CENTER OF ATTRACTION. WITH THIS PROJECT, CONSULATES OF THESE COUNTRIES WILL WORK TOGETHER IN A LARGE BUILDING AND DEVELOP RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES.'

6. "THE U.S., WHICH MOVED ITS CONSULATE IN BEYOGLU TO THE HIGHEST HILL IN ISTINYE FOR SECURITY REASONS, IS AMONG THE LATEST GUESTS OF THE DISTRICT.

7. "THE (U.S.) CONSULATE BUILDING IN ISTINYE IS EASILY VISIBLE FROM ALL PARTS OF THE DISTRICT. CHINA AND AUSTRIA HAVE THEIR CONSULATE BUILDINGS IN THIS DISTRICT IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT, THE NUMBER OF CONSULATES IN SARIYER WILL RISE TO 10."

ARNETT